

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 4 with the following replacement paragraph.

~~A method for cell selection is disclosed. The method uses an azlactone-functional support, which is derivatized with and covalently coupled to a substance that is biologically active with a desired type of whole cell. The method allows the whole cells in the mixture to interact with and bind to the coupled biologically active substance, after which a remainder of the mixture is removed from the support. Optionally, one can elute the bound whole cells from the coupled biologically active substance to produce a purified collection of the whole cells.~~

Azlactone-functional supports are used to provide cell selection from a mixture of whole cells. An azlactone functional support is derivatized by covalently coupling to the support a biologically active substance that binds to target cells. A mixture containing target cells and non-target cells is contacted with the derivatized support. Target cells bind to the support and non-target cells are removed. The azlactone-functional support is provided by incorporating an azlactone moiety into a base polymer support that has been selected as having minimal nonspecific binding of non-target cells from the mixture of whole cells.